

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed October 20, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 14-18, 20-23, 26, and 73-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mason et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,401,075) in view of *Himmel et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,782) and rejected claims 40-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Himmel et al.* in view of *Mason et al.* In the Amendment and request for reconsideration filed December 22, 2004, Applicants cancelled claims 14-18, 20-23, 26, 47, 58, 69, and 73-75, (Claims 1-13, 19, 24, 25, and 27-39 were previously canceled), and amended claims 40, 51, and 62. In the Advisory Action of January 14, 2005, the Examiner entered the Amendment and rejected claims 40-46, 48-57, 59-68, 70-72, and 76-84. In the Amendment After Final filed concurrently with the Appeal Brief of April 15, 2005, Applicants cancelled claims 76-84. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 40-46, 48-57, 59-68, and 70-72 were pending before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("the Board"). The Board sustained the rejection of claims 40-43, 48, 49, 51-54, 59, 60, 62-65, and 70-71, and did not sustain the rejection of claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, and 72.

By this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination filed concurrently herewith, Applicants amend claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, and 72, and cancel claims 40-43, 48, 49, 51-54, 59, 60, 62-65, and 70-71 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add new claims 85-141, each of which correspond to one of claims 41-43, 48, 49, 52-54, 59, 60, 63-65, 70 or 71, as originally filed. Accordingly, claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, 72, and 85-141 remain pending. For the reasons set forth below,

Applicant requests reconsideration and reexamination of claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, 72, and 85-141, and requests the timely allowance of these claims.

Amendments to the Claims

The Board reversed the rejection of claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, and 72. Decision on Appeal dated November 25, 2008, pgs. 11-12. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended allowable claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, and 72 to be in independent form. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 40-43, 48, 49, 51-54, 59, 60 and 62-65. New claims 85-141 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from an allowable independent claim, as well as by virtue of reciting additional features not taught nor suggested by the cited references. The Amendments made herein render the application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of pending claims 44-46, 50, 55-57, 61, 66-68, 72, and 85-141.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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